

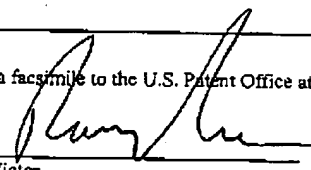
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(W.E.)11-30-01
L. SpruellIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	N. Aoyama	Examiner:	Cone, D.
Serial No.:	09/376,651	Group Art Unit:	2854
Filed:	August 18, 1998	Docket No.:	JA9-98-073
TITLE:	FEED ASSISTANCE MEMBER AND A MEDIUM PROCESSING APPARATUS		

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent Office at 703-872-9319 on November 28, 2001.


 David Victor
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12/31/01
DWCRESPONSE AND AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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NOV 28 2001

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated February 28, 2001 entered in the above Continuation Prosecution Application (CPA) filed on December 6, 2000. On February 28th, a phone interview was held among the attorney in the case ("attorney"), Examiner Cone and his supervisor discussing the patentability of the claims in view of DeFalco (U.S. Patent No. 5,088,848). During this interview, the Examiner and Supervisor responded favorably to a proposed amendment to rewrite in independent form claim 3, and similar claims 12 dependent from claim 10 and claim 21 dependent from claim 18. The Supervisor further suggested to remove the term "align" from the claim limitation "not vertically aligned with any align roller" when rewriting the dependent claims in independent form. The Supervisor mentioned that further follow-up searching may be performed when considering the proposed amendments to the claims.

The attorney further suggested amending claims 2, 10, and 18 to remove the term "align" as discussed above for consideration when the Examiner is reviewing the prior art.

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